

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 SY-05 /051 W

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O 091532Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3246

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJECT: UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON'S TRIP

REF: A. STATE 30951 B. LAGOS 1602 C. STATE 23980

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT, UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE, UNDERSECRETARY SHOULD ADVANCE DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON BY ONE DAY IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN LAGOS ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 AND SPEND TWO WORKING DAYS HERE.

2. ON BASIS REFTEL C, EMBASSY NOTIFIED MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT UNDERSECRETARY WOULD BE AVAILABLE MONDAY FEBRUARY 23 AND TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24. MEA HAS ALREADY REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS FOR UNDERSECRETARY WITH COMMISSIONER OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY AND COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIES FOR MORNING FEBRUARY 23.

3. CHANGE OF PLANNED DATES FROM FEBRUARY 16-18 HAS CAUSED SOME DISRUPTION, AS REPORTED REFTEL B. TO CHANGE DATES AGAIN AND AT SAME TIME INFORM FMG THAT UNDERSECRETARY WILL SPEND ONLY ONE WORKING DAY IN LAGOS INSTEAD OF TWO WOULD NOT ONLY BE AWKWARD BUT STRONGLY DISAPPOINTING TO FMG WHICH CONSIDERS ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE. FURTHERMORE, EMBASSY FEELS RANGE AND NUMBER OF IMPORTANT SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS WITH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS, AS EVIDENT FROM UNDER SECRETARY'S BRIEFING
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PAPERS, CAN PROFITABLY OCCUPY TWO DAYS OF HIS TIME. EMBASSY HAS

REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF OBASANJO AND SIX COMMISSIONERS, ONE OF WHOM PLANS TO HOST LUNCHEON FOR UNDER-SECRETARY. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY HOPES UNDERSECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC PROSPECTS WITH HANDFUL OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

4. INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE SCHEDULES APPEAR TO POSE NO BARRIER TO THE SUGGESTED CHANGE. PAN AM 184 LEAVES NEW YORK AT 1830 ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 AND ARRIVES KINSHASA 1545 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20. PAN AM 189 LEAVES KINSHASA 1725 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 AND ARRIVES LAGOS 1955 SAME DAY.

5. WHILE WE WOULD NOT WISH TO CAUSE ANY INCONVENIENCE TO EMBASSY KINSHASA, UNDERSECRETARY'S ITINERARY GIVEN IN REFTEL (A) WILL IN ANY CASE NECESSITATE REWORKING OF THAT POST'S TENTATIVE PLANS, AND OUR RECOMMENDED CHANGES WOULD NOT APPEAR TO MATERIALLY AFFECT WORKING TIME AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS THERE.
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